

1                               BEFORE THE  
2                               ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION  
3  
4       IN THE MATTER OF:                               )  
5    )  
6       COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY                ) No. 02-0838  
7    )  
8       Application for a certificate                )  
9       of public convenience and                    )  
10      necessity, pursuant to                     )  
11      Section 8-406 of the Illinois               )  
12      Public Utilities Act, and for               )  
13      an Order under Section 8-503                )  
14      of the Illinois Public                     )  
15      Utilities Act, authorizing and             )  
16      directing ComEd to construct,             )  
17      operate and maintain a new                 )  
18      electric transmission line in             )  
19      Kane County, Illinois                     )

20                               Public Forum  
21                               25 East State Street  
22                               North Aurora, Illinois

23                               May 29, 2003

24                               Met pursuant to notice at 7:00 p.m.

25                               BEFORE:  
26  
27                               CHIEF PUBLIC FORUM OFFICER ROBERT R. BENSKO  
28

29  
30                               SULLIVAN REPORTING COMPANY, by  
31                               Sharon D. Vachon, CSR No. 84-002410  
32

1           OFFICER BENSKO:   This is public hearing  
2   Docket No. 02-0838.

3                   Good evening, everyone.   My name is  
4   Robert Bensko and I am the chief public hearing  
5   officer for the Illinois Commerce Commission.

6                   I want to thank you for being here  
7   tonight.   Seated next to me I have a court  
8   reporter who will make a legal record of your  
9   comments which will be made available to the  
10  Chairman and the Commissioners.

11                  The subject of this hearing is a  
12  petition from Commonwealth Edison for a  
13  certificate of public convenience and necessity  
14  to construct and operate a 16-mile long 138 kV  
15  electric transmission line in Kane County.

16                  I run these hearings very openly and  
17  I urge anyone and everyone to speak tonight.   We  
18  at the Illinois Commerce Commission feel that  
19  your comments are very important and that's why  
20  we come to you instead of asking you to come to  
21  us.   We could have asked you to come to Chicago  
22  or asked you to come to Springfield and do these

1   hearings.   And we think it's necessary to come  
2   to you.

3                   I could have done two hearings, I  
4   could have done three hearings, but we have five  
5   communities that are involved in this, and I  
6   felt it important to go to each and every  
7   community so that I would give everyone a chance  
8   to have their say so as I stated a second ago,  
9   but the only way the Commission is going to know  
10  what you have to say or think is if you come up  
11  and speak tonight.

12                  Now I want you to feel as  
13  comfortable as possible.   I am probably one of  
14  the worst speakers in the world.   Or that's what  
15  my wife says.

16                  But I try to make this as  
17  comfortable as possible and I want as many  
18  people to speak tonight.   My job is to take the  
19  testimony and to make sure that the meeting is  
20  run right and everything is done according to  
21  the law.

22                  And in doing so, I am not allowed to

1 give an opinion, I am not allowed to add  
2 anything to the record, I have to take the  
3 record as a whole and present it to the Chairman  
4 and the Commissioners.

5                   So, I want you to know that every  
6 word that you say tonight is very important to  
7 us.

8                   I will open up the public record and  
9 I will call each of you who have signed up in  
10 the order in which your name appears on the  
11 sheet.

12                   After we have heard from those who  
13 signed up to give comment, I will go back to  
14 anyone else that, you know, has changed their  
15 mind and wants to speak. And I will ask you  
16 again, I will give you another chance if someone  
17 wants to speak or someone feels that they have  
18 something that they would like to offer, I will  
19 let you do that again.

20                   The State statutes that we have to  
21 live by provide -- does not provide for a  
22 swearing in, so I will not swear you in, and

1     there will be no cross-examination tonight.

2                     There is no provision in the State  
3     statutes which we have to live by that there are  
4     any question and answers on the record.

5                     So what we will do is we will take  
6     your comments, I will give you a brief statement  
7     on what the Commerce Commission has to look at,  
8     and then a representative from Commonwealth  
9     Edison will step up to the microphone and give  
10    their request, what they are trying to request  
11    from the Illinois Commerce Commission.

12                    And then we will go through the list  
13    how you signed up and we will ask you, you know,  
14    to give us your opinion.

15                    After I have closed the record, and  
16    I have sent the court reporter home, then I will  
17    allow a question-and-answer period.

18                    You can ask any questions that you  
19    want of myself, of Brian or of the company. And  
20    what I instruct the company to do is if the  
21    company does not know the answer, and I instruct  
22    this of Brian and myself, too, and if we do not

1 know the answer to your questions, we will get  
2 with you, we will take your name and your phone  
3 number down, and we along with the company will  
4 answer your question within 48 business hours.

5           That's the way I would like to run  
6 things. And that's what I ask. And I think  
7 that's only fair to try and get back to you  
8 within 48 hours, you know, to see if we cannot  
9 answer your questions. So there will be a  
10 question-and-answer period, and we will go as  
11 long as we can tonight. I would like to be out  
12 of here by 10:00 o'clock because I am driving  
13 back to Springfield.

14           There are right now 16 people that  
15 have signed up. If the list was a lot more, I  
16 would limit it to three minutes, but I think we  
17 can go five minutes tonight.

18           When you come up, step up to the  
19 podium, speak into the microphone, I want you to  
20 do two things for me. And they are mostly for  
21 the court reporter. I need you to state your  
22 name and I need you to spell it so that the

1 court reporter gets an accurate record.

2 This is the second of a series of  
3 public hearings on the Kane County transmission  
4 line proposal.

5 There is also along with these  
6 public hearings, there is another court  
7 proceeding that's going on at the Illinois  
8 Commerce Commission offices.

9 There it is exactly like a court of  
10 law. You have an administrative law judge, you  
11 have lawyers, you have interveners, you have  
12 economists from the company, from the Illinois  
13 Commerce Commission, and it's exactly like a  
14 court of law.

15 If whatever the Commission comes up  
16 with, whatever their determination is in this  
17 case, if people say, we do not like what you  
18 decided, the next higher court is the Appellate  
19 Court. And both those cases can only be heard  
20 on what's on the record.

21 And let me go through when the  
22 Commission begins its deliberation on Docket No.

1 02-0838, it will have to examine the evidence in  
2 accordance with the Public Utilities Act. And  
3 I'd like to share with you the criteria that we  
4 have to go through.

5           The Illinois Commerce Commission or  
6 ICC is a creation of the Illinois legislature,  
7 and its authority is limited to statutes enacted  
8 by that body. Section 8-406 of the Public  
9 Utilities Act instructs the Illinois Commerce  
10 Commission on its duties related to a  
11 certificate of public convenience and necessity.

12           The statute lists four factors that  
13 the Illinois Commerce Commission must consider  
14 when granting a certificate. And I will read  
15 these to you and then I will read them again.

16           The proposed construction is  
17 necessary to provide adequate, reliable and  
18 efficient service to customers. That's No. 1.

19           No. 2, the proposed construction is  
20 the least cost means of satisfying the service  
21 needs of the customers.

22           Third, the utility is capable of



1 efficiently managing and supervising the  
2 construction process.

3                   And fourth, the utility is capable  
4 of financing the proposed construction.

5                   The State statute that the Illinois  
6 Commerce Commission shall attach primary weight  
7 to the cost and cost savings to the customers of  
8 the utility and goes on to allow the Illinois  
9 Commerce Commission to consider any other  
10 factors which will or may affect such costs or  
11 cost savings.

12                   Now I will go over the four again  
13 for you.

14                   The proposed construction is  
15 necessary to provide adequate, reliable and  
16 efficient service to customers.

17                   Two, the proposed construction is  
18 the least cost means of satisfying the service  
19 needs of the customers.

20                   Three, the utility is capable of  
21 efficiently managing, supervising the  
22 construction process.

1                   And four, the utility is capable of  
2   financing the proposed construction.

3                   Now, it has come up before and it  
4   will come up again, and the Public Utilities  
5   Act, and I want to be very clear on this, does  
6   not contain any statutes giving the Illinois  
7   Commerce Commission the authority to consider  
8   aesthetics or the appearance of the proposed  
9   utility facility.

10                  What I am saying is, there is  
11   nothing in the statutes, unless the Legislature  
12   enacts something new, that gives us the  
13   authority to even consider, you know, what it's  
14   going to look like, what, you know, it appears  
15   like, or anything like that.

16                  So I want you to be very clear on  
17   that, that we cannot get any consideration to  
18   aesthetics.

19                  Saying that, everyone in the room  
20   that has signed up, and everyone in the room has  
21   an opinion. Everyone has a job, I have a job to  
22   do these public hearings, I have been doing them

1   since 1991. I even developed the program to do  
2   public hearings.

3                   During the first phases of public  
4   hearings, we took the testimony and we did not  
5   have a question-and-answer period. I found out  
6   early on that without question and answer, you  
7   know, people were going home and they were angry  
8   with me, they were angry with, you know, the  
9   system, so we added the question-and-answer  
10  period in.

11                  It has proven over the years to be  
12  very beneficial to the company and for the  
13  citizens. It gives them a way to communicate  
14  with each other.

15                  Each one of us has a job, as I  
16  stated before. We are to respect each other's  
17  positions.

18                  You might not like what your  
19  neighbor has to say, you might not like the  
20  color of his house, but you have to respect, you  
21  know, that authority.

22                  Anybody that steps up to that

1 microphone tonight, I want you to respect them.  
2 I don't say that you have to agree with them, I  
3 don't even say that you have to like them.

4                   What I am saying you have to  
5 respect, you know, the position that they carry  
6 when they step up to the microphone.

7                   And in doing so, the same will be  
8 afforded to you.

9                   So now can we begin. With us  
10 tonight from Commonwealth Edison, Marsha Hudson,  
11 and she is the ComEd external affairs manager  
12 servicing the Fox Valley area.

13                   Marsha.

14           MS. HUDSON: Good evening, Mr. Bensko. My  
15 name is Marsha Hudson and I will spell that for  
16 you, M-a-r-s-h-a, H-u-d-s-o-n.

17                   Thank you for arranging this public  
18 forum meeting tonight in the Village of North  
19 Aurora.

20                   I am, as I said before, Marsha  
21 Hudson, ComEd external affairs manager, and have  
22 been serving the Fox Valley area for nearly five

1 years acting as a liaison for the company with  
2 the local elected officials representing their  
3 interests and resolving problems when they  
4 occur.

5 I appreciate the opportunity to meet  
6 with you and my North Aurora neighbors. I live  
7 in the general area, as do many of my colleagues  
8 at ComEd.

9 I am very happy to be here tonight  
10 to discuss the question of serving the rising  
11 electricity needs of Kane County.

12 Rapid change is taking place in Kane  
13 County. It is evident everywhere.

14 According to estimates released by  
15 the U.S. Census Bureau, the population in Kane  
16 County grew almost 10 percent from years 2000 to  
17 2002 making this the third fastest growing  
18 county in Illinois.

19 So to accommodate that growth a wide  
20 range of services, roads and utilities will need  
21 to be developed.

22 Tonight our focus is addressing the

1 electricity demand which is growing three times  
2 the average rate in our service area.

3 ComEd has served the electricity  
4 requirements of Kane County for many years.

5 In the past several years  
6 reliability throughout ComEd's service area has  
7 been improving dramatically.

8 Since 1998 ComEd has reduced the  
9 number of outages that occur in a year by 51  
10 percent. And when outages do occur the company  
11 is faster by 65 percent in restoring the power.

12 ComEd continues to work and plan to  
13 provide quality service to its customers and our  
14 commitment to reliability is longstanding.

15 Our proposed project to build a  
16 transmission line along Randall Road is part of  
17 this effort, which is the reason we are all here  
18 tonight.

19 The Fox Valley communities have  
20 voiced concerns about this plan and have opposed  
21 it through the ICC, Illinois Commerce Commission  
22 proceeding. Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn has

1   also raised concerns.

2                   In an attempt to respond to the  
3   concerns of the community, ComEd executives  
4   called a meeting to begin to open discussion  
5   with a group of community stake holders on May  
6   23rd.

7                   Now our aim in holding this meeting  
8   was to listen to the community's concerns and to  
9   continue open discussion toward a viable  
10   solution.

11                   It was ComEd's way of following up  
12   on local community response as well as to the  
13   April 2003 informational open house ComEd hosted  
14   for local residents at the Kane County  
15   fairgrounds.

16                   At the meeting ComEd president Frank  
17   Clark assured participants that ComEd will not  
18   act alone on this project, and they never  
19   intended to.

20                   We acted on evidence of greatly  
21   increased demand and the request of wholesale  
22   customers, St. Charles and Batavia, to provide

1 for the increased electricity needs of this  
2 rapidly growing area.

3               This was the constructive beginning  
4 of a plan to move ahead and develop a solution  
5 that works for everyone.

6               ComEd intends to continue these  
7 meetings working closely with Lieutenant  
8 Governor Pat Quinn and our community  
9 representatives to examine detailed information  
10 and develop a viable plan to serve the county's  
11 needs for more power.

12              We have also asked the parties to  
13 designate a representative to pursue the  
14 substantive issues in detail.

15              ComEd will continue to provide  
16 detailed information about its proposal, the  
17 alternative routes that were developed in the  
18 joint siting, and we will consider options that  
19 community leaders are interested in pursuing.

20              In the meantime, ComEd along with  
21 St. Charles and Batavia have asked the Illinois  
22 Commerce Commission to temporarily delay



1 proceeding the petition for four months.

2 Our commitment holds firm to  
3 reliable service.

4 While a long-term solution is being  
5 discussed, it will reinforce existing lines that  
6 serve these communities ensuring reliable power  
7 in time for record setting electricity usage  
8 projected to occur in these areas as early as  
9 the summer of 2004.

10 I would also like at this time to  
11 read an excerpt from a news release that went  
12 out this afternoon.

13 And the excerpt says that ComEd  
14 announced today that it is seeking a four-month  
15 delay of its petition for a new Randall Road  
16 electric transmission line in Kane County to  
17 allow more need for electric power -- I am  
18 sorry, let me start over -- to allow more time  
19 to continue meeting with concerned citizens and  
20 elected officials about the critical need for  
21 electric power in the fast-growing county.

22 ComEd is joined in its request to

1 the Illinois Commerce Commission by the cities  
2 of Batavia and St. Charles, ComEd's wholesale  
3 customers who have requested that ComEd consider  
4 adding new transmission to fill their increased  
5 demands. Thank you.

6 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, Ms. Hudson.

7 Right now I would like to ask Mayor  
8 Ruby to step forward, and I would like to say to  
9 you, sir, we at the Commerce Commission  
10 appreciate your generosity in letting us use  
11 this meeting room tonight.

12 MAYOR RUBY: Thank you. For the record, my  
13 name is Mark Ruby, M-a-r-k, R-u-b-y. And I am  
14 village president or the mayor of North Aurora.

15 Hearing this information late in the  
16 afternoon or at least an abbreviated form of  
17 this information, I was not sure of the details,  
18 does not change our village's position in this  
19 matter, we, our part of a petition to intervene  
20 that we entered into with the village of South  
21 Elgin and the city of Geneva regarding the issue  
22 of the power lines.

1                   One of our main concerns was that we  
2 had not -- that not all of the other options had  
3 really thoroughly been considered, which is I  
4 think something that is being addressed right  
5 now in this new information.

6                   We also felt that when this proposal  
7 first came through, we were really not given any  
8 kind of feeling that we were going to benefit  
9 from this power line.

10                  We were in sense part of the throat  
11 of the line going north to serve a couple of  
12 other communities.

13                  The first reaction on our part was  
14 we are running a power line through a land that  
15 is going to be developed, plus residential area  
16 that it already exists, and that this was going  
17 to be something that would have an impact on our  
18 future commercial development particularly, and  
19 that we felt at that time that what was  
20 happening was that we were in a sense  
21 diminishing our value of our commercial property  
22 in return for giving additional power to

1 communities up river.

2 Let me say that at no time are we in  
3 a position here or do we want to get into a  
4 conflict with other communities. That certainly  
5 was not our point.

6 But we felt that all of the  
7 possibilities had not been considered.

8 We had been involved from the very  
9 beginning in this issue. I attended the  
10 original Commerce Commission meeting in Chicago  
11 where we entered our petition to intervene.

12 I was at the meeting on the 23rd in  
13 the Oak Brook Terrace where we met with the  
14 officials from ComEd and also the attorney from  
15 the Illinois Commerce Commission and the general  
16 counsel for Patrick Quinn, Lieutenant Governor,  
17 where we also, we also made comments at that  
18 time. I entered comments at that time.

19 So right now, that is our continuing  
20 position and we are hoping that other  
21 possibilities will be considered.

22 I will add one additional comment,

1 simply my own comment, and that is that we  
2 understand very much that the least cost  
3 delivery of power is an important consideration  
4 for all citizens and I understand the rationale  
5 for that.

6                   What we, and I might raise a  
7 question is, is that necessarily a long-term  
8 benefit or a short-term benefit?

9                   Obviously it makes a difference in  
10 what kind of resolution is considered here for  
11 the future.

12                   I would like that to be in the  
13 record again. Thank you.

14           OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, Mark. Thank you  
15 once again for it's so kind to let us use your  
16 room.

17                   Now I am going to start calling the  
18 names on the list. I guarantee you I will  
19 butcher some of those names. Please do not get  
20 mad at me. Mark --

21           MR. GUETHLE: Guethle.

22           OFFICER BENSKO: Guethle.

1           MR. GUETHLE:  It's pronounced Guethle.

2           OFFICER BENSKO:  Sorry, Mark.

3           MR. GUETHLE:  Unless you are from Germany,  
4  you won't pronounce it correctly.  But that's  
5  okay.

6           OFFICER BENSKO:  Thanks, Mark.

7           MR. GUETHLE:  For the record, my name is  
8  Mark Guethle, M-a-r-k, G-u-e-t-h-l-e.

9                        I am a village trustee and I would  
10  like to go on record, I am strongly opposed to  
11  the power lines.

12                       Here in North Aurora, we have two  
13  schools within close proximity to the proposed  
14  project.

15                       We have Fern Elementary School and  
16  we have Jewel Middle School.  I measured it  
17  today.  It's about four-tenths of a mile away  
18  from the project.

19                       According to the studies from  
20  California that were submitted yesterday, and I  
21  can read just briefly what the California Public  
22  Works Commission had come up with, "To one

1 degree or another all three of the DSH  
2 scientists concluded to believe that EMFs can  
3 cause some degree of risk to childhood leukemia,  
4 brain cancer and Lou Gehrig's disease along with  
5 miscarriages."

6                   Although ComEd says these are not  
7 really conclusive, we also heard this from the  
8 tobacco industry 40 years ago about smoking.

9                   Along the project down Randall Road  
10 there are 26 subdivisions that are going to be  
11 affected.

12                   Half of the proposed area is  
13 residential, and the other half is commercial.  
14 And that also brings up the point of the folks  
15 who work in those areas along this side of the  
16 power lines, the workers, the employers who work  
17 underneath the power lines along the route,  
18 presents health issues to them as well.

19                   I also find it troubling that North  
20 Aurora was not a part of the planning process in  
21 the beginning. I don't -- I'm not quite sure  
22 why, but talking with the mayor and some of the

1 other trustees, we were kind of left in the dark  
2 in the beginning, and I find that very troubling  
3 since we are not even being served by this  
4 proposed project.

5                   In addition I find that ComEd's  
6 numbers are inflated, in particular the cost of  
7 burying the lines.

8                   The studies that they proposed  
9 compared to the St. Charles' studies is quite a  
10 bit different, I think that should be taken into  
11 consideration.

12                   And also their proposed census  
13 study, which covers the whole county, and not  
14 the proposed power line district where the power  
15 lines are going, so they are including the whole  
16 county in the census study which the whole  
17 county is not involved in the project.

18                   The proposed project it really does  
19 affect a lot of the folks in this district.  
20 Thousands of people are being affected along  
21 with kids. I am a husband and a father, a  
22 coach, I coach baseball.



1                   To bring the project down that road,  
2   next to all of those fields where we play  
3   baseball and where we get together, to me, I  
4   can't see why they can't stand to reason that  
5   maybe there is a different alternative.

6                   I would like to see them bury the  
7   lines personally.

8                   We also have developers coming in  
9   down that route, and it brings up the issue of  
10   our home sales. We went through this yesterday,  
11   I know, I will submit it again, I want to talk  
12   about that for a second.

13                  The studies do show 5 to 30 percent  
14   of homes will be affected, the price of the  
15   homes. We have two subdivisions down that route  
16   proposed that we would like to develop.

17                  Now, is it fair to the developers to  
18   come in after maybe we have been in negotiations  
19   with them already to come down and try to sell  
20   homes with power lines over them? I don't think  
21   so.

22                  And in closing I would like to add

1   that the Noise Control Act of '72 empowered the  
2   EPA to determine the limits of noise required to  
3   protect public safety and welfare and set  
4   emission standards for the environment,  
5   including electrical lines.

6                   I do have the act here.   I would  
7   like to submit it for evidence.

8                   So, I will give this to you.

9                               (Document tendered.)

10          OFFICER BENSKO:   Thank you, Mark.

11          MR. GUETHLE:   The noise pollution combined  
12   with the road work that's being done, the  
13   construction, the ongoing traffic down Randall  
14   Road should have some concern to the Commission.

15               And if you add that up, I think that  
16   you would find if we had a decibel meter I think  
17   it should be read and find out if there is, in  
18   fact, a proposed noise violation, I believe that  
19   there would be with all of the construction  
20   going on in that area.

21               Noise intensity is measured by  
22   decibels.   The decibel scale is logarithmic.

1 Each ten decibel increase represents a 10-fold  
2 increase in noise density.

3 Human perception of loudness also  
4 conforms to the scale. A 10 decibel increase is  
5 perceived as roughly a doubling of loudness.

6 Thus 20 decibels -- 30 decibels is  
7 10 times more intense than 20 decibels and  
8 sounds twice as loud. 40 decibels is 100 times  
9 more intense than 20, and 20 sounds four times  
10 as loud.

11 80 decibels is one million times  
12 more intense than 20, and sounds 64 times  
13 higher.

14 Now, with the sound ordinance or the  
15 sound act and noise violations that I do believe  
16 that are going to occur if it was read and  
17 checked with the sound meter, I find that there  
18 is some other health issues to be aware of. And  
19 I just hope that the Commerce Commission will  
20 look at that as well.

21 And that's all that I have.

22 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir.

1                   Jim Svoboda.

2           MR. SVOBODA: That's pretty good. That's

3 better than average.

4           OFFICER BENSKO: Makes me feel good.

5           MR. SVOBODA: My name is James Svoboda,

6 that's S-v-o-b-o-d-a.

7                   I am a resident of North Aurora, and

8 I remember when Randall Road was a winding two-

9 lane country road, and it could have accepted

10 power lines.

11                   That is not the case any more.

12 Randall Road is the economic engine for many of

13 the communities that are sited along Randall

14 Road.

15                   I am a licensed engineer, and I will

16 not hit you with any facts or figures, I will

17 only ask you to use common sense.

18                   Common sense tells me that there has

19 to be a better alternative to siting this in an

20 area that will affect businesses, health,

21 residential. It will have a tremendous economic

22 impact on all of the towns sited along Randall



1 big boppers out further west where they will be  
2 away from the public in consideration of their  
3 health, safety and general welfare. Thank you.

4 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir.

5 (Applause.)

6 Tony Paraclinta.

7 MR. PARACLINTA: Paraclinta. I am not going  
8 to speak. Thank you.

9 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you. But I was  
10 close.

11 Rudy Stein.

12 MR. STEIN: Good evening, my name is Rudy  
13 Stein. That's R-u-d-y S-t-e-i-n.

14 I am a resident of North Aurora, I  
15 reside in the Little Lake Subdivision which  
16 borders Randall Road to the west.

17 I strongly oppose the proposition  
18 for ComEd power towers for several reasons  
19 including many that you have already heard  
20 tonight, increased adverse health risks from  
21 electric magnetic fields which are most -- which  
22 are very probable of causing adverse health

1 reactions, aesthetics which we have already  
2 heard is not recognized by the Illinois Commerce  
3 Commission but is definitely recognized by every  
4 North Aurora resident who lives along Randall  
5 Road.

6 (Applause.)

7 As well as the four other  
8 communities heading northbound.

9 As well as aesthetics, property  
10 values would adversely be affected especially in  
11 our subdivision which as I said before backs  
12 Randall Road.

13 I have already seen a drop in the  
14 selling prices of homes in the last few weeks  
15 since this has become public, or more public I  
16 should say. I can only expect that decrease in  
17 property values would be a trend until this is  
18 resolved.

19 I believe in addition the people of  
20 North Aurora would probably suffer the greatest  
21 impacts from these -- the direction of these  
22 power towers as the power towers would most

1   probably be tallest through North Aurora, and  
2   getting shorter as they go north.

3                   In addition, we probably have some  
4   of the subdivisions that are closest to Randall  
5   Road in North Aurora. Furthermore we wouldn't  
6   benefit from these power towers, we would only  
7   have to take the property value losses and  
8   suffer the aesthetic impacts.

9                   There are several other alternatives  
10   that we can consider. I am a geologist and  
11   environmental consultant.

12                  And as a professional I recognize  
13   that there are many other alternatives that  
14   would be less invasive to the community and  
15   still get the job done without carrying the  
16   health risks, the loss of aesthetics and  
17   property values or overall degradation of our  
18   communities.

19                  Along those, many of those options  
20   would be burying the lines. We have a nice clay  
21   till soil here, there would be no risk of  
22   electromagnetic radiation getting through a soil



1     matrix like that.

2                     In addition, they can be relocated

3     westbound where there is not already developed

4     property.

5                     If this proposal goes through they

6     will be running through an area that's already

7     developed both residentially and economically.

8     It seems like a very bad choice of placements

9     and a -- not a very well thought-out proposal.

10                    That's all that I have to say.

11    Thank you for hearing me talk.

12                             (Applause.)

13           OFFICER BENSKO:   Thank you, sir.

14                    Ann Aurelius.

15           MS. AURELIUS:   My name is Ann Aurelius,

16    A-n-n, A-u-r-e-l-i-u-s.   And I am one of the

17    people who live right up to Randall Road.   This

18    will be in my backyard and I strongly oppose

19    this not only for several of the same reasons

20    that have already been said tonight, aesthetics

21    which does not affect anybody unless you have to

22    look at them, which we do, health, resale value.

1 I know that there is laws stating in FHA that  
2 say that they won't sell your home, they won't  
3 approve a loan for your home even if it's in the  
4 fall line.

5 And I am also worried about bringing  
6 new business to our community. I think it will  
7 really decrease. If you look at ComEd Park now,  
8 it's empty, there is nobody there, nobody wants  
9 to build there, nobody wants to stay there.

10 There is just there has to be other  
11 ways, and I also agree that I would like them  
12 buried. I think that sometimes the least  
13 expensive way is not always the best way.  
14 That's all.

15 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, ma'am.

16 (Applause.)

17 Cindy Newendyke.

18 MS. NEWENDYKE: Good evening, my name is  
19 Cindy Newendyke. C-i-n-d-y N-e-w-e-n-d-y-k-e.  
20 I thank you for the opportunity to speak  
21 tonight.

22 I am a resident that lives less than

1 two-tenths of a mile from Randall Road. I have  
2 two children ages two and seven.

3 They attend or will attend Fern  
4 Elementary School and then Jewel. I am  
5 concerned about their health and their future.

6 I know that ComEd does not feel  
7 there is a health risk based on old studies.  
8 And health is not one of their criteria that the  
9 ICC bases their decision on.

10 However, I strongly feel that there  
11 is a health risk resulting from electromagnetic  
12 fields from the 138 kV lines.

13 This belief is based upon facts from  
14 recent credible reports from scientists  
15 worldwide.

16 I personally feel that the EMFs  
17 lower a person's resistance and thereby make  
18 them more susceptible to the cancers and other  
19 diseases reported.

20 Health should be a consideration and  
21 I implore both ComEd and the Illinois Commerce  
22 Commission to take the health of my children,

1 and all of the children of the people in this  
2 room into consideration.

3 We unfortunately do not have a  
4 choice. We have built our homes and have lived  
5 there for a considerable amount of time.

6 I am not against power, however, I  
7 am an individual disputing and questioning a  
8 power giant ComEd's need for additional power.

9 ComEd has overstated the population  
10 growth and need.

11 In recent newspaper articles,  
12 recently as this week, they even admitted that  
13 they have overstated the power demand that they  
14 are projecting on these.

15 They have taken in all of Kane  
16 County in their figures, not just the area  
17 affected.

18 The power lines will not benefit me,  
19 my family, or my neighborhood in unincorporated  
20 Batavia. However, my family and I will be  
21 greatly negatively affected by these power  
22 lines.

1                   If you research the facts, ComEd's  
2   ulterior motive in installing these lines is to  
3   develop a grid system connecting the substations  
4   in South Elgin and North Aurora.

5                   The benefactors to these lines are  
6   ComEd, Batavia and St. Charles in reducing power  
7   costs. ComEd has overstated the cost of burying  
8   the lines.

9                   The only reason they show Randall  
10   Road as least cost is that they are assuming  
11   that they have free reign at no cost to use  
12   Randall Road due to an antiquated agreement with  
13   Kane County.

14                  When in actuality the cost of the  
15   land along Randall Road is the most expensive in  
16   all of Kane County. It is the economic engine  
17   of the Fox Valley and has 27 residential  
18   communities along it.

19                  It is not an old country road as  
20   they would like to project it to be.

21                  Please look at moving the lines to  
22   where people have a choice to live by them or

1 not, or burying them if ComEd and the cities of  
2 Batavia and St. Charles would benefit so much  
3 from these.

4 Thank you for listening and I hope  
5 that the Illinois Commerce Commission will  
6 seriously take our comments into consideration,  
7 thank you.

8 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 Last evening, Cindy's husband spoke  
11 at the meeting last evening, so, thank you very  
12 much for your comments.

13 Max Herwig.

14 MR. HERWIG: My name is Max Herwig, M-a-x,  
15 H-e-r-w-i-g. I am a village trustees.

16 And I also sell real estate here in  
17 the village. I am very concerned, first of all,  
18 about the impact these power lines will have on  
19 the health and safety and welfare of the  
20 residents within one mile of these towers.

21 I have personally experienced power  
22 lines going through my house when I lived on the

1 corner of Willow Way and Kingswood.

2 Kingswood runs east and west along  
3 with Princeton. There is high power lines that  
4 run along there. They are very noisy, very  
5 unsafe and it definitely has a major impact on  
6 the real estate value of every single house that  
7 either faces those power lines or backs up to  
8 those power lines.

9 And the lady that spoke about the  
10 FHA is exactly right, where the homes are they  
11 couldn't get FHA loans because they are too  
12 close to the power lines.

13 I am concerned about the economic  
14 impact this will have on the development along  
15 Randall Road, particularly in North Aurora.

16 That's a prime area that we are just  
17 now getting started and getting commercial  
18 development and people wanting to build there.

19 I believe these power lines will  
20 have a major economic impact on our commercial  
21 development as well as losing the value of some  
22 of the homes along there. And I just want to go

1 on record stating that I am totally opposed to  
2 this.

3 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir.

4 (Applause.)

5 Deb Sauer.

6 MS. SAUER: My name is Deb Sauer, D-e-b,  
7 S-a-u-e-r, like sauerkraut.

8 I can just say ditto to everyone  
9 behind that's talked before me. We have lived  
10 in this town almost 10 years, my husband and I,  
11 and, you know, it's a great little town, we are  
12 not the big Batavia, we are not the big  
13 St. Charles, health issues, environment issues,  
14 backyard issues, don't let them put those power  
15 lines up. Thank you.

16 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, ma'am.

17 (Applause.)

18 Lynn Muttschall.

19 MS. MUTTSCHALL: Hi. I am not a good public  
20 speaker. My name is Lynn Muttschall, that's  
21 L-y-n-n, M-u-t-t-s-c-h-a-l-l.

22 And I am totally opposed to the



1 power lines going up on Randall Road. I like  
2 Ann, my backyard faces, it butts up against  
3 Randall Road, and it would highly affect me. I  
4 am concerned for the health of me, my children,  
5 and my grandchildren.

6                   People could say now that nothing  
7 could be done or nothing will happen, but who  
8 knows a year from now, six months from now, six  
9 years from now.

10                   The statute might not care about  
11 looks or how things are, but I don't want to  
12 look out my back window and see this.

13                   And when we first moved here it was  
14 open empty spaces, that's what we came here for.  
15 Now it's building up and the power lines being  
16 there I think that the resale value it would go  
17 down immensely. And I don't feel we should have  
18 to suffer emotionally, physically or financially  
19 for these.

20                   So, I guess I can just say I don't  
21 want them up. Thank you.

22           OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 You did very well speaking, too.

3 Sandy Jelm.

4 MS. JELM: Hello, my name is Sandra Jelm,

5 S-a-n-d-r-a, J-e-l-m.

6 I am not a resident of North Aurora,  
7 but I am a close neighbor to the north in  
8 Batavia, and what I have on my mind concerns the  
9 Main Street extension of this project connecting  
10 from Randall Road to a substation across from  
11 our neighborhood elementary school.

12 My next door neighbor who has her  
13 home on the market right now told me that a  
14 couple prepared to write a contract on her home  
15 got cold feet because of their concern over the  
16 threat of the power lines, and they have school-  
17 age children.

18 So, the other concern or issue on my  
19 mind, I am a member of Holy Cross Parish, which  
20 is situated on Main Street in Batavia. We have  
21 plans to build a school at the church, and I am  
22 afraid if these lines go up, that will interfere

1 with our ability to have that school at Holy  
2 Cross. Thank you.

3 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, ma'am.

4 (Applause.)

5 Ken Drase.

6 MR. DRASE: My name is Ken Drase, K-e-n,  
7 D-r-a-s-e.

8 And I just wanted to thank these  
9 speakers before me that pretty much brought up  
10 everything that I was concerned about and  
11 appreciate the time that they put in to research  
12 some of this stuff.

13 I am just an average Joe. I live  
14 about, oh, a couple blocks away from Randall  
15 Road. I have been here for 16 years. I plan on  
16 staying a lot longer.

17 I have a sizable home that would be  
18 attractive to a family with a few children,  
19 which is I am sure would be very concerned about  
20 living in this situation like that. I am  
21 opposed to these.

22 The three main things that came to

1 my mind as soon as I heard about this, of  
2 course, is appearance. And we have nipped that  
3 in the butt where it's not going to be a  
4 concern, but I think what we will have to deal  
5 with is I would be willing to pay a little extra  
6 if it had to go through this area to have it  
7 underground instead of being visible.

8 I like to fish a little bit in this  
9 area along the river here. We have a few of  
10 these towers, and I am sitting under them for  
11 awhile and listen to them hum, and it's an eerie  
12 feeling, and it cannot be good and it certainty  
13 cannot be good for our children in the area. My  
14 son is grown and lives quite away from here,  
15 nice and safe out in the Rockies.

16 But, again, we have neighbors with  
17 small children, and I think that's the main  
18 concern here, is the health situation.

19 I'm not happy about it affecting the  
20 resale of my home, and I'm not happy about the  
21 way that they will look and I am not happy about  
22 having to pay more money. But I enjoy flipping

1 on the big screen late at night and I enjoy the  
2 service. And I don't want to deny anyone else  
3 that same service.

4 But there has to be other  
5 alternatives here to where our community does  
6 not have to suffer to have something like this,  
7 and I guess that's all that I have to say.  
8 Thank you.

9 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir.

10 (Applause.)

11 Alex Leon.

12 MR. LEON: Thank you. My name is Alex Leon,  
13 that's A-l-e-x, L-e-o-n.

14 I am a resident of North Aurora, I  
15 back up to Orchard and Randall Road where this  
16 project would be pretty much in my backyard.

17 I am strongly opposed to it. The  
18 reason I am opposed to it, I have two young  
19 children that I plan to raise in this community,  
20 they will attend Fern and they will attend Jewel  
21 Middle School.

22 And just the fact that their health

1    could be impacted by this project, they may not  
2    have a future.

3                   The humming noises that are  
4    occurring. I know that the Illinois Commerce  
5    Commission does not take into consideration  
6    aesthetics, however, when I walk out onto my  
7    patio, I have an open view right now which is  
8    beautiful. I don't necessarily want to walk out  
9    on my patio to go barbeque and see these power  
10   lines staring me right back in my face.

11                  And as other people had stated here,  
12   the economical impact that it would have to the  
13   community, and not only to my home, it does back  
14   up there, but if I ever do plan to have a resale  
15   or sell my home, I really do not want to take  
16   that loss. I have put a lot of money into my  
17   home, as many residents here in North Aurora  
18   have.

19                  I am not opposed to the power.  
20   There has to be another alternative. As the  
21   gentleman said earlier, I enjoy receiving the  
22   power, I like watching my TV, it's there, it's a



1 North Elgin, and I also attended the  
2 stakeholders meeting at ComEd on the 23rd of  
3 May.

4                   The reason I am speaking to you  
5 tonight is because as you are starting to see  
6 and as you listen to ComEd's statement, you  
7 realize that this is a fast-moving train, and  
8 the reason it's a fast-moving train is because  
9 there is a lot of attention drawn to it, and  
10 your interest is part of that attention that  
11 causes this change to take place.

12                   I am going to digress for a moment  
13 and bring us back to about February of this  
14 year.

15                   Prior to that time, nobody really  
16 knew about this other than a few people in these  
17 municipalities, a few officials and the ComEd  
18 staff.

19                   They had filed in December a  
20 petition to do this construction, and it was not  
21 except for the hard work of a lady by the name  
22 of Liz Shoppe, S-h-o-p-p-e, who lives in



1 Batavia, we wouldn't even know about this. And  
2 she began to make the public aware.

3               Shortly thereafter, members of my  
4 homeowners association joined in as did the rest  
5 of the neighbors that span all the communities  
6 from South Elgin to here in North Aurora.

7               In a month's time we grew to a body  
8 of about 500, and today we represent over 4000  
9 people in over 2000 homes stretched along the  
10 entire way.

11              Which by the way as somebody said  
12 earlier is a zoned residential area,  
13 approximately 50 percent of all the property in  
14 that entire stretch is designated for  
15 residential. And furthermore, the rest of it is  
16 for commercial to support those residents that  
17 are going in.

18              Now, those residents need power.  
19 And we don't contest that, in fact, PURE is in  
20 favor of bringing in power where needed.

21              However, we strongly challenge and  
22 we have challenged ComEd's position that, one,

1 the amount of demand, the need that they say  
2 exists, truly exists. And, secondly, that the  
3 cost estimating that they have been doing is  
4 accurate.

5                   You have heard tonight some of the  
6 statements that have been made by other  
7 speakers. They are all true.

8                   The initial numbers that ComEd  
9 stated in their initial petition are  
10 overinflated as to need, and it seriously goes  
11 to question whether an 138 kilovolt line is  
12 necessary to satisfy even that need.

13                   In fact, at the 23rd of May meeting,  
14 a ComEd official stated that the total demand as  
15 revised downward could be satisfied by the  
16 installation of a new 34.5 kilovolt line, and  
17 that would meet the demands that they now have  
18 projected for the next 10 years.

19                   Now, what had changed in the span of  
20 two or three months that suddenly made this  
21 absolute requirement to bring 16 1/2 miles of  
22 138,000 volt electricity down Randall Road, how

1 did that suddenly change to being able to be  
2 satisfied by reworking or reinforcing the  
3 existing lines, and possibly the installation of  
4 one new additional line?

5           Let me put that in perspective for  
6 you. St. Charles is a community that is  
7 currently fed if my data is accurate by seven  
8 34.5 kilovolt circuits.

9           By adding just one more, 14 percent  
10 more, that would fully satisfy everything we are  
11 talking about.

12           So, where is the credibility that is  
13 supposed to go into this? We challenge that.

14           And we are asking Commonwealth  
15 Edison to be a good neighbor, to be forthright,  
16 to show us the numbers, and they are coming out  
17 in their -- on their behalf, I am very  
18 encouraged by what I am seeing.

19           But you know what, if we had not  
20 formed, and if we had not taken the stand that  
21 we had, the process itself would have caused  
22 these lines to be installed without so much as a

1 blink.

2                   The process requires parties,  
3 interested parties to intervene and to provide  
4 contrary positions.

5                   In fact, unless the interveners come  
6 with alternate proposals with data that can  
7 challenge ComEd's proposals, guess what? That  
8 will stand.

9                   And one person will be looking at  
10 big power lines when he barbeques, and you are  
11 going to hear the hum and the crackle.

12                   So, what we would like to do, what  
13 PURE is here to do, is to drive for fact-based  
14 disclosure.

15                   That's what we stand for. We are  
16 not here to embellish the numbers, we are not  
17 here to cry wolf, but, you know, since we begun  
18 researching this, since we have begun coming out  
19 with the facts, the study from California is now  
20 out in the public arena, guess what?

21                   20 years of utility-backed studies  
22 that used to say electricity, high voltage, is

1 great, it's not harmful, all of a sudden, like  
2 cigarette smoking, like asbestos, like many  
3 other safe chemicals that make our life  
4 wonderful, we are discovering that, you know, it  
5 is not necessarily so.

6                   So we are asking to participate  
7 actively. And we thank ComEd for their offer to  
8 do so.

9                   We encourage the Illinois Commerce  
10 Commission to take and really pick apart this  
11 proposal.

12                   And we ask that they take heed to  
13 Lieutenant Governor's Quinn statement last night  
14 to really look at the total cost.

15                   You know, right now, or  
16 historically, the cost structure has been just  
17 construction costs or maybe cost to acquire the  
18 right-of-way.

19                   Well, we have discovered in the  
20 latter point, you know, that they have assumed  
21 away the problem.

22                   The reason Randall Road is the least

1 cost alternative is because they have assumed  
2 that there are no or very little costs  
3 associated with acquiring it.

4 And, therefore, any other route  
5 where they are going to bump into an unhappy  
6 homeowner or a property owner is going to cause  
7 acquisition costs to arise.

8 Okay. We need to challenge that.  
9 We need to find out what the real truth is. We  
10 need to find out collectively what the best  
11 alternatives are and get those on the table.

12 So I welcome ComEd's statement,  
13 thank you, Marsha.

14 We need everybody in this room help  
15 to support PURE. We have engaged a legal staff  
16 because you really need some lawyers to help you  
17 in this. And you have heard, this is basically  
18 a legal process.

19 We are today actively fund raising  
20 with the intent of developing a quarter of a  
21 million dollar fund chest in order to make this  
22 happen.

1                   If you just think about it, if we  
2 just took 500 homes along Randall, not the 2000,  
3 just 500, and everybody pledged \$500, that's a  
4 quarter of a million dollars.

5                   Okay. And we are asking people to  
6 pledge that, we are asking people to, you know,  
7 step forward and be active and protect the  
8 franchise that you have worked so hard to  
9 create, the homes that you bought, the families  
10 that you are trying to raise, you know, the  
11 communities that you are building, we think it's  
12 worth 500 bucks.

13                   So, I thank you, I thank you for  
14 your time.

15                   And we are here to support you,  
16 please feel free to contact us.

17                   (Applause.)

18           OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, Harry.

19                   Mark Riley. That's not it.

20 Okay. I will give you your phone number,  
21 897-8228.

22                   No one?

1                   Okay.   Bill Slaker.

2           MR. SLAKER:   Slaker.

3           OFFICER BENSKO:   Slaker.

4           MR. SLAKER:   Bill Slaker.   S-l-a-k-e-r.

5   B-i-l-l.

6                   Okay.   Well, thank you all for being  
7   here, I really appreciate the comments.

8                   I think from my perspective I keep  
9   hearing this about the rules and the  
10   restrictions the Illinois Commerce Commission  
11   works under.   Okay.

12                   And this math, as far as doing the  
13   computation of least cost, and I want to remind  
14   everyone that the rules that they are working  
15   under is the result of the legislation which is  
16   generated by the politics, which is very much  
17   factored by the lobbyists, which in turn is  
18   controlled by the money.   And then we have a big  
19   money pot here with vested interest and a  
20   credibility problem.

21                   As far as the math is concerned, I  
22   can understand why those would lobby for the



1     billing consideration to be the upfront costs.

2                     In business and accounting and what  
3     not, you don't have just the upfront costs, you  
4     have other costs as well.

5                     And I can see that the utility  
6     would not be against that computation because  
7     the lower costs would give them the same or  
8     potentially greater profit at a lower price, a  
9     lower political cost as well when dealing with  
10    the public and the financials and the ratios and  
11    everything would look better, you name it.

12                    And as has been mentioned, the  
13    upfront costs, one of the majors, not the major  
14    cost, is the cost of the right-of-way, and that  
15    cost would be included as zero, free, nada.

16                    And if you -- the lowest valuation  
17    that you could give it would be what the lowest  
18    acquisition cost of any other right-of-way would  
19    be, that would be it minimum cost.

20                    As has been pointed out that's our  
21    economic engine in this area. So I would think  
22    it would have a higher value than a lot of other

1 areas.

2                   Because the county has granted free  
3 access along roadways in the past for the  
4 benefit of the public to the utilities, now in  
5 this instance it's being applied carte blanche  
6 that this once again should be free.

7                   The truth is that this right-of-way  
8 has value and big bucks.

9                   And to allow it to be given away  
10 would be a breach of our county's fiduciary  
11 responsibilities to conserve the public assets,  
12 and this is the taxpayers' property, the voters'  
13 property that's being given away to Edison and  
14 then they are using that computation to do this  
15 calculation.

16                   Other costs -- and that's strictly  
17 that's out-of-pocket upfront, those are valid  
18 costs and should be included.

19                   The other costs, we can talk about  
20 the health costs, let's forget about that right  
21 now, other than maybe the psychologic costs for  
22 the stress, but the controversy has resulted in

1 throughout that there is an actual decrease in  
2 property values. And the one I keep hearing all  
3 of the time is like 30 percent.

4 And you add in the appearance factor  
5 and the property values take another hit, and  
6 this is a permanent ongoing cost for the area.

7 The other cost is that we are  
8 talking about residential versus business, well,  
9 you are going to have a different business  
10 makeup. I would think less valuable business  
11 property coming in, which would affect once  
12 again not only property taxes, but sales tax,  
13 and income tax coming from that, that's an  
14 ongoing permanent decrease in income and cost,  
15 if you will.

16 You want to call it aesthetics, but  
17 aesthetics are measured in cost and this is a  
18 definite hit. Okay. Just the fact that you  
19 cannot get a mortgage, I mean, it's a very easy  
20 argument to make.

21 But this is an ongoing, compounding  
22 negative item, additional cost.

1                   And then in time as the area builds  
2 up more, well, what do you think that's going to  
3 happen?

4                   There is going to be more  
5 capacity added, and these already detrimental  
6 expenditures, as far as the impact is concerned,  
7 is going to get worse, compounding the problem  
8 and hurting the area more.

9                   So we have these costs that are not  
10 being included in there and that are not being  
11 factored in there. I don't know if the older  
12 folks remember the new math. I hope this goes  
13 the same way as that math.

14   (Laughter.)

15                   So, going back, if the Illinois  
16 Commerce Commission's hands are actually tied,  
17 an interpretation is tied, there is a remedy for  
18 this.

19                   And that is through legislation  
20 working with the county, as far as them giving  
21 you -- just because they have done it in the  
22 past does not mean in this case it's

1 appropriate. I mean they are doing it for the  
2 benefit I am sure. It would be a benefit not to  
3 have them do it this time and of course our  
4 State legislators.

5                   So, anyhow, notes, I just have some  
6 wonderful notes from you folks, tonight.

7                   The truth, I guess, and when it  
8 comes to politics. We make the truth. Thanks.

9                   (Applause.)

10           OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir.

11                   Al Imgrund.

12           MR. IMGRUND: Good evening. Al Imgrund,  
13 I-m-g-r-u-n-d, 40-year resident of North Aurora,  
14 unfortunately planning to retire and leave  
15 sometime towards the end of the year, but when I  
16 do come back to visit, I don't want to see those  
17 power lines up and down Randall Road.

18                   I thank the board and the Mayor for  
19 their attendance here. I have listened very  
20 carefully. And, Mr. Bensko, you answered my No.  
21 1 question before I got up here in outlining the  
22 legislation and what the Legislature has placed

1 upon the Illinois Commerce Commission.

2                   And it appears to me that that  
3 legislation is fatally flawed and skewed in  
4 favor of Commonwealth Edison, who needs to show  
5 only necessity and the least costly means and  
6 that they are capable of financing it and that  
7 they are capable of doing it.

8                   So I urge the people of North Aurora  
9 to listen to Mr. Eng whom I never heard before,  
10 I don't know diddly-squat about his  
11 organization, never gave him a penny, but he has  
12 outlined the basis on which you must fight this  
13 fight. That is the legislation itself.

14                   You must fight the fact that it is  
15 necessary and there has been some indication  
16 tonight that it may not be necessary. You may  
17 fight the cost, the question that it is the  
18 least costly means.

19                   And to that end from what I hear you  
20 need to talk to the County Board about the free  
21 right-of-way to Commonwealth Edison. We have a  
22 very active board member in North Aurora, Jim

1 Mitchell, I am sure he will listen to you.

2 I urge you also to pester the hell  
3 out of the Legislature. Chris Lauzen is our  
4 local senator, very active. Rauschenberger in  
5 Elgin, also very active, whom I find two of the  
6 best Senators in Springfield, don't let them off  
7 the hook. If it's necessary, the legislation  
8 itself must be visited and amended.

9 I didn't think I would be nervous.  
10 Hang on a second, please.

11 Commonwealth Edison is a large  
12 organization. They have a great deal of clout  
13 in Springfield, which is itself a cesspool of  
14 special interests and money.

15 They are a bottom line company so  
16 you have to fight them on that basis. You must  
17 show that this is not necessary, and you must  
18 show that this is not the least costly means of  
19 going about it.

20 We have one minor victory already in  
21 the form of delay, but don't let that lull you  
22 to sleep. It's a common tactic to get you to be

1     quiet.

2                     The overhead lines are ugly, nobody  
3     likes them, it is incredible that this day and  
4     age we are still talking about whether  
5     transmission lines should be overhead or buried  
6     regardless of the cost question.

7                     Anyway, keep at it, and give them  
8     hell.

9                                     (Applause.)

10           OFFICER BENSKO:   Thank you, sir.

11                     Warren Eggers.

12           MR. EGGERS:   That's close enough.

13           OFFICER BENSKO:   That's all I am getting  
14     tonight is close enough.

15           MR. EGGERS:   My name is Warren Eggers,  
16     W-a-r-r-e-n E-g-g-e-r-s.

17                     I have lived in North Aurora about  
18     three and a half years.   I have three very small  
19     kids right now, one is three and I have twins  
20     that are 10 months.

21                     And my taxes have already gone up  
22     \$450.   And the power lines that you guys want to



1 put in are ugly, ugly, ugly. And my wife is not  
2 here because she wanted to come but my kids are  
3 sick, so I had to come.

4 And I am a very busy, busy person  
5 right now, and I think I have a lot of houses in  
6 my subdivision for sale right now and they are  
7 not selling.

8 And I hope you think about what you  
9 are doing because it's a lot of -- I think  
10 Commonwealth Edison is wasting money, wasting  
11 their time and wasting my money.

12 And I think it's -- I think it's not  
13 right. And you have to think about the people  
14 in North Aurora, Batavia, St. Charles, Geneva,  
15 the lines are going to be ugly. Thank you.

16 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir.

17 (Applause.)

18 Ron Ziegler.

19 MR. ZIEGLER: My name is Ron Ziegler,  
20 Z-i-e-g-l-e-r, I live in St. Charles Township.

21 It's a sad situation when good  
22 people have to take their time and their money

1 to defend their constitutional property rights.

2 But, you know, there are young men  
3 all over the world defending our constitutional  
4 rights of freedom, and we are free to speak and  
5 that's a good thing.

6 We are also free to fight. And we  
7 are fighting for our property rights and we are  
8 fighting for what we think is right. And I am  
9 seeing red.

10 I am seeing bold letters ComEd in  
11 red, and it makes me mad.

12 I see the advertisement that went  
13 around 30 years ago for Commonwealth Edison when  
14 it was a Chicago company.

15 Some of you remember, it was Little  
16 Bill, the little talking light bulb, how cheap  
17 electricity was going to be.

18 Today Little Bill has gone to  
19 Philadelphia and come back as Big Red Ed. And I  
20 am mad.

21 Big Red Ed wants to stand tall, and  
22 he wants to stand 120 feet tall up and down

1 Randall Road where 50,000 cars travel every day.  
2 We will be looking at Big Ed for a long time if  
3 this passes. And we will just have to look up  
4 and all we will see is 120 feet of him.

5               If you drive down Randall Road today  
6 in the commercial part of Randall Road all you  
7 see is green. You see green boxes. What are  
8 green boxes? They are buried utilities.

9               You can drive down Randall Road and  
10 look south from the Union Pacific overpass in  
11 Geneva, you can look south over Eagle Brook and  
12 you can look to the east over Eagle Brook and  
13 you can look south and east -- excuse me, west  
14 over Randall Square, you don't see a single  
15 line, not a telephone line, not a power line,  
16 nothing.

17              How will these lines stand out when  
18 there is nothing there now? Someone has spent  
19 the money to bury those lines and to make the  
20 area look nice. Commonwealth Edison has  
21 portrayed Randall Road as a commercial corridor.

22              I refer you to Page 6 of the

1 testimony that Commonwealth Edison gave to the  
2 Illinois Commerce Commission.

3 And in answer to this question:

4 "Please describe the  
5 right-of-way along which the  
6 proposed transmission line would  
7 be constructed if the proposed  
8 route is approved."

9 The company answered: "The  
10 majority of the line will be on or  
11 along Randall Road right-of-way  
12 and therefore ComEd only needs to  
13 obtain minimal number of  
14 additional property rights along  
15 the Randall Road corridor.  
16 Randall Road is primarily a  
17 commercial corridor," unquote.

18 We have heard tonight there is 27 or  
19 26 subdivisions along that corridor.

20 And if you look at Randall Road from  
21 Dean Street north all the way to South Elgin,  
22 not only is it not commercial, it's zoned E-3,

1 no commercial allowed.

2 And our good Mayor here of North  
3 Aurora has talked about the development coming  
4 along your part of the corridor, residential.

5 Now, I am not saying it's a  
6 residential corridor, I am saying it's a  
7 residential/commercial corridor.

8 A land planners' dream. We can live  
9 close to where we shop, we can -- there are  
10 homes right next to Home Depot. And Home Depot  
11 has been required to plant trees and build berms  
12 and the list goes on and on.

13 A great community hospital, a  
14 combination of Geneva and St. Charles. Geneva  
15 Community Hospital and Delnor Hospital of  
16 St. Charles combined and built a beautiful  
17 campus right on Randall Road. They have a  
18 wellness center that's right up against Randall  
19 Road. A wellness center with power lines  
20 running right over the top of it.

21 (Applause.)

22 Not only that, many of us have young

1 children. We are working trying to make a  
2 living, trying to make ends meet. We take our  
3 children to LaPetite. We take them to  
4 KinderCare. Where are they located?

5 Right on Randall Road. There they  
6 are. Are the kids going to go out and play  
7 under the power lines at KinderCare? Yeah.  
8 That's what they want in this, quote, unquote,  
9 commercial corridor.

10 Don't let Commonwealth Edison turn  
11 our community, this corridor which we call  
12 Randall Road, which has been referred to as an  
13 economic river of commerce, don't let them turn  
14 that in a heart beat --

15 MAYOR RUBY: Can you hold up just a second.

16 OFFICER BENSKO: Let me go off the record.

17 (Whereupon, a discussion  
18 was had off the record.)

19 MR. ZIEGLER: I am sorry. I probably get  
20 carried away. But I ask the Commerce Commission  
21 to very, very carefully study the testimony that  
22 has been already given by Commonwealth Edison to



1                               Cheryl Reis.

2           MR. SCHROEDER: Cheryl stepped out to move  
3 her car but she wanted to save her spot. She  
4 will be right back.

5           OFFICER BENSKO: Paul is it Waters?

6           MR. WESTLEY: Westley.

7           OFFICER BENSKO: Not close.

8           MR. WESTLEY: I will keep it brief because I  
9 have to leave for work in about two minutes.

10                           It's Westley for the record,  
11 W-e-s-t-l-e-y. I live in Heritage West  
12 subdivision. And I am a member of PURE, and I  
13 actively put my big six foot No Power Towers  
14 outside --

15   (Applause.)

16                           -- I am out every day with my  
17 two-year-old sometimes. I have three kids. And  
18 I knew that easement was there in '95 when I  
19 bought the house. And I didn't give it a lot of  
20 thought, you know, everyone thinks, you buy a  
21 house, and, well, there is a power easement, no  
22 big issue. I can't believe they want to put



1   those big metal power towers out there.

2                   And they still state there is health  
3   issues, just like they said smoking didn't hurt  
4   you or asbestos.

5                   But my neighbor across the street  
6   already put his house up for sale. And I know  
7   there is going to be a loss in property value,  
8   but I am going to ride out the storm. And I  
9   hope they do the right thing and bury them.

10   They have strict rules for all the commercial  
11   businesses up there, you don't see power towers.

12                   They make all the landscaping has to  
13   be real nice and everything, yet they want to do  
14   this to the residents and the taxpayers.

15                   I know I will never vote for anybody  
16   that's in favor of this thing. And I have to go  
17   to work. I have a family to support.

18           OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir.

19                                   (Applause.)

20                   Mike Herlihy.

21           MR. HERLIHY: Try again. Mike Herlihy.

22           OFFICER BENSKO: You must be a doctor.

1           MR. HERLIHY: I must be a doctor?

2           OFFICER BENSKO: Because I can't read this.

3           Mr. HERLIHY: Actually I had to rewrite this  
4 into something bigger, so.

5                     Mike Herlihy, M-i-k-e,  
6 H-e-r-l-i-h-y. I have heard a number of great  
7 thoughts from people here. Some I had never  
8 thought of.

9                     I am a licensed engineer, which  
10 teaches you problem solving. I am a contractor,  
11 which teaches you good problem solving.

12                    I am also a village trustee here in  
13 North Aurora, which kind of teaches us some good  
14 problem solving.

15                    But most of all, I believe I am a  
16 good neighbor. This issue some people would say  
17 that it's a growth-driven issue. Growth needs  
18 more power.

19                    Here in our village we have taken a  
20 number of steps over the last many years in our  
21 planning and what not to help manage growth, to  
22 help create good results for all of our

1 residents, all of our constituents for decades  
2 to come.

3 I did watch similar power towers get  
4 erected over on Route 59. I cannot believe how  
5 unsightly they are. I cannot believe how unsafe  
6 the construction practice was on such a high  
7 traffic thoroughfare.

8 Certainly at the time it was done on  
9 Route 59, the traffic rates were much higher  
10 than we currently see on Randall Road. I  
11 believe that they create very unsafe  
12 obstructions.

13 We all know how many people have  
14 accidentally run off the road and been severely  
15 injured or killed by power poles.

16 Several people here have already  
17 mentioned health issues, noise issues,  
18 environmental issues.

19 I believe that there is a while it's  
20 not a loud decibel issue all of the time, there  
21 is certainly a harmonic noise issue. How well  
22 that's ever been researched I can't tell you

1 that, but it's certainly one of the nuisances  
2 that occurs and currently exists with the power  
3 line setup that runs east/west through town.

4           At this point in time and for many  
5 centuries, we have lived in a world and a  
6 country and a time of unbounded creativity,  
7 opportunity and choice, and also we have always  
8 continued to respect our neighbors.

9           One of the greatest values I enjoy  
10 in this village, living here, I have lived here  
11 for 14 years, is that there is a great wealth of  
12 strong families, and a great wealth of strong  
13 neighbors.

14           I believe that there are better,  
15 more attractive, more functional, more  
16 effective, more neighborly options. I heard  
17 that ComEd is asking for more time to try to  
18 pursue those.

19           I believe that there is other  
20 sources, substations out along I-88, substations  
21 over in the Fermi Lab area that might better and  
22 more effectively serve the local needs. I have

1 heard a smaller 34 kV line might satisfy need.

2 But most of all, I challenge ComEd  
3 and the Illinois Commerce Commission as well to  
4 come up with the most effective, most creative,  
5 good neighbor solution and use that as a model  
6 for development for the next decades. Those are  
7 my thoughts. I don't want to see the towers.  
8 Thanks.

9 (Applause.)

10 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.

11 Did Cheryl come back in the room?

12 MS. REIS: That was embarrassing.

13 OFFICER BENSKO: No problem.

14 MS. REIS: Good evening. And my name is  
15 Cheryl Reis. And I am a criminal. No.

16 (Laughter.)

17 OFFICER BENSKO: Can you spell your name for  
18 the court reporter.

19 MS. REIS: C-h-e-r-y-l R-e-i-s.

20 I am a resident of Eagle Brook  
21 subdivision that Ron mentioned in Geneva. I am  
22 not a resident of North Aurora, but I am here in

1 support of the residents here.

2 Our subdivision is in close  
3 proximity to Randall Road, with some homes  
4 within probably about 200 feet of Randall Road.

5 When I pull out of my driveway, I  
6 pull out and I see the KinderCare and I see the  
7 LaPetite Academy.

8 I am speaking out tonight as a  
9 resident concerned about decreased property  
10 values, but tonight most importantly, as a  
11 mother of an eight-year-old daughter who is in  
12 the back of this room.

13 I am very concerned about the long-  
14 term health effects.

15 So on the issue of electromagnetic  
16 fields, I would like to first quote Dr. David  
17 Carpenter who is the dean of the State of New  
18 York School of Public Health.

19 I quote Dr. Carpenter.

20 "I am now convinced that EMS  
21 pose a health hazard. There is a  
22 statistical association between

1 magnetic fields and cancer that  
2 goes beyond the shadow of a  
3 reasonable doubt.

4 "I think that there is clear  
5 evidence that exposure to EMS  
6 increase the risk for cancer.  
7 This is most clear with leukemia  
8 and brain tumors but in the  
9 residential studies, statistical  
10 significance increased for all  
11 kinds of cancer. And we are just  
12 beginning to have a whole body of  
13 evidence that reproductive cancers  
14 are increased by exposure."

15 Next I would like to quote Dr. Magda  
16 Hava from the Environmental and Research Studies  
17 at Trent University.

18 OFFICER BENSKO: Could you spell that for  
19 us, please.

20 MS. REIS: Dr. Magda Hava, M-a-g-d-a capital  
21 H-a-v-a from the Environmental and Research  
22 Studies at Trent University.

1           OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.

2           MS. REIS: And this is Dr. Hava's quote.

3                       "I certainly would not want to  
4           gamble with the health of a young  
5           child and, therefore, I would  
6           recommend a policy of prudent  
7           avoidance.

8                       "If in 10 years' time we learn  
9           that electromagnetic fields are  
10          not responsible for the increased  
11          cancer documented in the  
12          literature, we have lost little by  
13          practicing prudent avoidance.

14                      "But we learn that fields  
15          are -- but if in time we learn  
16          that fields are indeed  
17          responsible, then we have gained  
18          much by this practice."

19                      Now I personally attended the open  
20   house that ComEd sponsored in April at the Kane  
21   County fairgrounds.

22                      I wanted to hear for myself what is



1 ComEd presenting about these electromagnetic  
2 fields.

3 I picked up their literature that  
4 they were passing out, and I have a copy of it  
5 in big red letters.

6 I frankly was insulted. This is  
7 a -- one of the fliers that they were passing  
8 out and it talks about sources of  
9 electromagnetic fields that we find in our  
10 communities and in our homes on a daily basis.

11 Found in a typical household, data  
12 on hair dryers, blenders, electric can openers,  
13 and vacuum cleaners, as ComEd's rationale that  
14 these fields are insignificant and that I as a  
15 citizen and a mother should not be concerned.

16 With all due respect to ComEd's  
17 position, and I do understand why they have made  
18 that position clear, a 120-foot steel tower  
19 generating 138 kilovolts of electricity ain't no  
20 vacuum cleaner.

21 (Applause.)

22 And as I have been sitting here

1   tonight someone early on mentioned common sense.  
2   Well, I am an Okie, not from Muskogee, I am  
3   actually born and raised in a little town in  
4   Oklahoma called Bartlesville, for the record,  
5   but there was a -- one of our favorite sons in  
6   Oklahoma was a man by the name of Will Rogers  
7   and he was just an Okie because he was a folksy  
8   guy with common sense.

9                   I am that same gal from Oklahoma,  
10   and I will tell you this absolutely makes no  
11   sense. And I urge the Illinois Commerce  
12   Commission to please use common sense and look  
13   for the children, our future. Thank you very  
14   much for your time.

15                                   (Applause.)

16       OFFICER BENSKO: Cheryl, you did very well.  
17   Thank you.

18                   Elizabeth Moe. I know I got it  
19   right. Three letters.

20                   John Schroeder.

21       MR. SCHROEDER: Hi. My name is John  
22   Schroeder, S-c-h-r-o-e-d-e-r, first name

1 J-o-h-n.

2 I come here representing Ryan  
3 Schroeder who is 14 months old and could not  
4 make it here tonight, it's a little past his bed  
5 time, so he sends his apologies for that.

6 My gravest concern even though many  
7 people have brought up several issues, all of  
8 them very good and all of them definitely worth  
9 talking about, my greatest concern resolves  
10 around health.

11 I have lived in North Aurora a grand  
12 total of four months. And I don't know how much  
13 longer we will live in North Aurora. We live  
14 about 2- to 300 feet from these proposed power  
15 lines.

16 And, you know, there is a lot of  
17 talk about health. There is some things -- some  
18 studies that may not have been conclusive like  
19 asbestos and other industries, tobacco industry  
20 and such.

21 However, I know our Lieutenant  
22 Governor has brought up studies from California

1 that maybe have shown otherwise that gives us  
2 great concern and that alone is worth me  
3 standing up here to talk about.

4 I know that you said that the  
5 statute mandates adequate, reliable and  
6 efficient service, and I don't doubt that ComEd  
7 could probably fulfill reliable and efficient  
8 service. They have done a pretty good job of  
9 doing just that. I would question adequate in  
10 terms of how much is adequate.

11 Is 138,000 volts two times as much  
12 as we need? I don't know. I am not sure how  
13 much is adequate.

14 Also, in terms of it being cost  
15 efficient, that was another portion of the  
16 statute that you talked about, and cost  
17 efficient for whom?

18 Certainly not cost efficient for the  
19 eight people on my street that have for sale  
20 signs in their yard, and certainly not cost  
21 efficient for all of the businesses up and down  
22 that 16-mile stretch.

1                   Just between us, my house is pretty  
2 modest so I imagine the people who are a little  
3 further north of me propose probably to loss a  
4 lot more than me.

5                   So it's certainly not cost efficient  
6 to them either.

7                   But it's cost efficient to somebody,  
8 but I don't see it's us and I certainly don't  
9 think it's anybody in North Aurora.

10                  I thank you for your time and I  
11 thank you for the Illinois Commerce Commission  
12 to come here tonight and listen to our concerns.  
13 They are very good ones.

14                  I support Mr. Eng. He has done a  
15 wonderful job and I think you all should support  
16 them, too.

17                  I appreciate you listening to us,  
18 and, again, before we push this through, maybe  
19 we should think it through, and even just the  
20 health issues alone on the 16-mile stretch with  
21 what must be tens of thousands of people up and  
22 down this road. And I think we should put a

1 little more thought into it. Thank you.

2 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir.

3 (Applause.)

4 Ken Chin.

5 MR. CHIN: Hi. Good afternoon, my name is

6 Ken Chin. K-e-n C-h-i-n.

7 First of all, I taught at the

8 university level for quite a few years, so if I

9 take a long time please raise your hand because

10 people tend to say once I got on the podium I

11 couldn't stop, so.

12 But I listened to all of the

13 citizens here, besides I am a proud member of

14 PURE also, talking to some of the issues like

15 Al, Bill and Harry, I also express very deep

16 concern on what's going on.

17 First of all, people brought up the

18 issues and the health issues, I know it's a

19 little bit off the statute.

20 But let me just remind everybody,

21 magnetic force is one of the four fundamental

22 forces in physics.

1                   So don't tell me the electromagnetic  
2 force there it will not change our electrons and  
3 everything else what's inside the body such as  
4 could cause cancer and so on and so forth.

5                   We don't know doesn't mean that it's  
6 not there. Okay. If we don't know certain  
7 things does not mean that does not exist. We  
8 just have not discovered certain things at this  
9 point.

10                  I worked for the big four for quite  
11 a few years, so to me the cost is a relative  
12 term. For instance, where did Commonwealth  
13 Edison come up with today -- by the time all the  
14 lawsuits comes in, did you guys consider all of  
15 that, for the land, for the health issues and so  
16 on and so forth? No.

17                  To me that's part of the cost of  
18 building those, okay. So, I want to emphasize  
19 that the cost is a relative term, you know, I  
20 don't know how Commonwealth Edison came up with  
21 it's the cheapest to do it that way versus the  
22 other way, but if we go and all the lawsuits

1    come in, then it's just a different perspective.  
2                   And also the last thing, I will try  
3    not to keep everybody here too long, is to -- I  
4    think if I am hearing, you know, what we had  
5    discovered here is that there is a big loop hole  
6    inside the ICC that we need to contact our  
7    Legislature to include, and not just necessarily  
8    the cost, but have to be aesthetic, the  
9    well-being of the citizens and everything else  
10   needs to be part of ICC's function as well.

11                  So I encourage everybody to go back  
12   and tell your friends and neighbors and talk to  
13   your Congressmen and get that changed. Thank  
14   you very much.

15   (Applause.)

16           OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir.

17                  Brian is going to go out and check  
18   to see if anyone else has signed up. And give  
19   us a couple of seconds.

20   (Whereupon, a brief

21   recess was taken.)

22           MR. STERLING: Vernon Lavia.



1           MR. LAVIA: Hello, my name is Vernon Lavia,  
2   V-e-r-n-o-n L-a-v-i-a. And I live in Aurora, I  
3   have a degree in economics from Duke University.  
4           And one word that I have not heard  
5   tonight is innovation and the lack of innovation  
6   historically with monopolies.  
7           So I really challenge the nice lady  
8   from ComEd to go back and say why after 100  
9   years are we still doing the exact same thing  
10   using old fashion power lines?  
11           And the answer is lack of innovation  
12   because it's not required of monopolies to be  
13   very innovative.  
14           So that's a very short comment I  
15   just wanted to make tonight.  
16                           (Applause.)  
17           OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir.  
18           MR. STERLING: I can't read it. I am going  
19   to give it to you. Beth Stephens I think it is.  
20           OFFICER BENSKO: Beth Stephens.  
21           MR. STERLING: (847) 742-3291.  
22           OFFICER BENSKO: She went to move her car.

1           MR. STERLING: Frank Bartos.

2           MR. BARTOS: Good evening. My name is Frank  
3 Bartos. F-r-a-n-k B-a-r-t-o-s. I am a recent  
4 resident of St. Charles. And I didn't think I  
5 would be this soon on coming up before a public  
6 body to speak my concerns.

7                   And while I am not from your  
8 community, I think we are united in a common  
9 cause here, so --

10          OFFICER BENSKO: Sir, can you speak into the  
11 microphone because the court reporter needs to  
12 get an accurate record.

13          MR. BARTOS: Okay. Sorry. Thank you for  
14 allowing me to speak here today.

15                   I have a concern about the precedent  
16 what we would be setting by allowing these high  
17 power -- I am sorry, these high voltage power  
18 lines to be sited, high power, these lines of  
19 such size and magnitude to be sited along  
20 Randall Road.

21                   Others have spoken here tonight and  
22 also yesterday at a hearing in North Elgin --

1 South Elgin, excuse me, more eloquently than I  
2 can do about the health, costs and environmental  
3 issues associated with these power lines.

4 I would like to take another  
5 perspective involving these issues.

6 High voltage power lines are not  
7 new. They will be with us until better  
8 alternatives come along or until buried power  
9 lines become the norm.

10 The last gentleman -- this also  
11 includes innovative ways to provide the power  
12 which the last gentleman alluded to.

13 Yet, the interesting thing, almost  
14 without exception, where have overhead lines of  
15 this size been located thus far?

16 In farm fields, in designated  
17 utility right-of-ways, along tollways and  
18 expressways, behind industrial and office  
19 complexes, in other remote areas.

20 It's not a coincidence that high  
21 voltage power lines have been placed in such  
22 out-of-way locations because of the potential

1 health issues, the land acquisition costs, and  
2 other undesirable factors.

3                   And what do these sites have in  
4 common? They expose relatively few people to  
5 the potential hazards, but more to the point,  
6 the remote locations of power lines limit the  
7 time of exposure to the hazard.

8                   The Randall Road route would bring  
9 high voltage lines in close proximity to  
10 residences and work places increasing that  
11 exposure time.

12                   Some people will receive up to 24  
13 hours per day exposure to the electromagnetic  
14 forces. And there is no disagreement that  
15 increased exposure to potential hazards  
16 increases the overall risk.

17                   I believe that the scope of the  
18 Randall Road project is virtually unprecedented  
19 in a built-up locale involving five cities.

20                   Please show me where power lines of  
21 138 kilovolts, kilovolt caliber are located over  
22 a 16-mile route in such close proximity to

1 thousands of people, and I said here hundreds of  
2 homes, but here tonight I hear thousands of  
3 homes.

4                   On the order of 260 to 280 towers  
5 would be installed along that route 80 to 100  
6 feet tall.

7                   Besides homes, businesses, numerous  
8 stores, schools and at least one hospital and  
9 wellness center, a cancer center, some churches  
10 and so on would be located along this route.

11                  Once the towers are in place, adding  
12 more and even higher voltage wires has been the  
13 precedent when such structures have been put in  
14 place.

15                  At yesterday's hearing one lady  
16 spoke of homes and schools located four-tenths  
17 to seven-tenths of a mile from the proposed  
18 line. We have heard similar kinds of figures  
19 today.

20                  These people have my sympathy, but  
21 then how about people living in homes even less  
22 than 100 feet from these power lines?

1                   Where have these people been  
2 considered in the vast so-called best plan with  
3 so many unanswered questions surrounding it?

4                   Also, consider a talk of the future  
5 widening of Randall Road. In some places the  
6 right-of-way is too narrow for both projects to  
7 take place.

8                   Some towers and lines would, if this  
9 plan went ahead, some towers and lines would  
10 have to be relocated.

11                  Is this not an additional cost that  
12 should be accounted for in ComEd's least cost  
13 plan?

14                  And last, and in closing, maybe  
15 future power lines cannot be limited to those  
16 remote areas that we have seen them in now, but  
17 then the rules for their approval process should  
18 also change.

19                  In more urban locations maybe power  
20 lines need to have size limits with the power  
21 transmission difference made up by more  
22 efficient wires and a more distributed network

1    which would be one answer to looking at newer  
2    things and innovative things.

3 I sincerely urge the Commission to  
4 adopt a full cycle cost accounting method to  
5 determine what this project would actually cost,  
6 including cost of potential health risks, loss  
7 in property values, loss in tax base,  
8 environmental costs and other factors.

9                   Aren't other municipal projects  
10   evaluated on such a basis? And why isn't an  
11   environmental statement not required for this  
12   kind of a project?

13                    Maybe the utility needs to work more  
14    closely and in the open for its plans to be  
15    considered.    So-called best plan and least cost  
16    plan have no meaning without a proper comparison  
17    to other alternatives.

18                   Thank you so much for your time.

19   And I am a registered PE in Illinois.

20 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir.

21 (Applause.)

22 Mike Leehy.

1           MR. LEEHY:     My name is Michael Leehy,  
2     M-i-c-h-a-e-l L-e-e-h-y.

3                     I am impressed with everything  
4     that's been said here this evening with the  
5     exception of Commonwealth Edison's position.

6                     I am very upset that they tried to  
7     use a preemptive statement to quell any  
8     opposition that they were required to use the  
9     least costly method, and this preemptive  
10    statement was meant to overwhelm those of us who  
11    might oppose this.

12                    Commonwealth Exelon Company's claim  
13    of its method being the least costly has not  
14    presented the details and the costs of the  
15    proposed method and the alternative methods'  
16    costs and considerations.

17                    Therefore, they are not objective.  
18    One cannot measure them, one cannot compare  
19    them, and one cannot determine the validity of  
20    those costs.

21                    Lastly, while many other costs have  
22    been brought up, the one cost that has been



1 mentioned only once tonight is that the  
2 necessary requirements to live here must be  
3 divided by the number of people who live here,  
4 those costs, those costs covered by real estate  
5 taxes, and that is going to be a cost for all  
6 the residents.

7                   Our real estate taxes must increase  
8 if the value of your property is lower but we  
9 still require the same governmental services.

10                   And this is another cost that must  
11 be considered in determining what is the least  
12 costly method.

13                   I am very concerned with this slam  
14 bang method where SBC slam banged this recent  
15 ruling through the Illinois legislative bodies.

16                   And I am very concerned that the  
17 same thing could happen with this utility also.

18                   And I see only one method that's  
19 effective. And that is the unity of the people  
20 both through contacting their representatives  
21 and whether it's \$5 or \$500 sending some money  
22 to this organization of which I do not even know

1 the name of, but I would like to find out how to  
2 contact it.

3 (Applause.)

4 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir. Adolfo  
5 Perez.

6 MR. PEREZ: My name is Adolfo, A-d-o-l-f-o  
7 P-e-r-e-z.

8 First off I wanted to say as a  
9 resident of North Aurora I moved into this  
10 community because it was very attractive, it was  
11 a very attractive community, I saw value in the  
12 property that I purchased, and I do live in a  
13 community that will be backing up to the power  
14 lines.

15 In the three years that I have been  
16 here, the value of my property has actually went  
17 up close to 50 grand.

18 Now being a prior real estate agent  
19 I know that once those power lines go up, the  
20 value of my property will drop significantly. I  
21 know that beyond a shadow of a doubt.

22 Now, the reason I am here is to

1   oppose this.   Also, I am here as the president  
2   of the Orchard Crossing homeowners association.

3                   All right.   141 homes that will be  
4   affected by these power lines.   Okay.   I am here  
5   to represent them to oppose this.

6                   We believe that there is other  
7   alternatives that can be done instead of putting  
8   up those power lines and affecting every one of  
9   our property values.   Okay.

10                  Real estate is the only thing that  
11   is stable nowadays.   Stocks are not, all right.  
12   The economy is not that good.

13                  So real estate is what we value, and  
14   when that's taken away from us, what happens?  
15   What do we have?   Nothing.

16                  So in order to keep our property  
17   values up, I implore the Illinois Commerce  
18   Commission and Com Ed to consider, please  
19   consider an alternative.   Thank you.

20                                   (Applause.)

21           OFFICER BENSKO: Christina Lindstrand.

22           MS. LINDSTRAND:   Christina Lindstrand,

1 C-h-r-i-s-t-i-n-a, L-i-n-d-s-t-r-a-n-d.

2 I also live in the Orchard Crossing  
3 subdivision and echo the sentiment of just  
4 everyone here tonight.

5 But I wanted the Illinois Commerce  
6 Commission to consider the business practices of  
7 Commonwealth Edison during this proposal itself.

8 It appears to me that in this  
9 proposal, Commonwealth Edison did not expect the  
10 community reaction and the residential reaction  
11 that they were going to get and that is echoed  
12 more so in the fact that now they are just  
13 asking for an extension of four months to do  
14 research that in my mind should have been done  
15 before the proposal was even made.

16 Also, it appears to me that  
17 Commonwealth Edison chose the easiest route  
18 because of the substations that were already  
19 existing rather than necessarily the cheapest.  
20 And I would just like you to consider their  
21 business practices, thank you.

22 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, ma'am.

1 (Applause.)

2 Is there anyone in the audience that  
3 has not had a chance to speak that wishes to  
4 speak at this time? Please come forward.

5 MR. BRINTON: Good evening, my name is Tom,  
6 T-o-m, Brinton, B-r-i-n-t-o-n.

7 I am not going to elaborate on what  
8 others have spoken on. There is just one area  
9 that I am concerned about.

10 I am a public service administrator  
11 and have been with the state. And we are,  
12 obviously, concerned about both safety as well  
13 as meeting the needs of the community.

14 And the one area that we always are  
15 concerned about is transportation routes. And I  
16 don't believe that these high voltage wires  
17 belong along transportation routes because in  
18 times of disaster whether it's due to terror or  
19 whether I think the mixture of the high power  
20 towers with the major route for emergency  
21 vehicles simply don't mix.

22 That certainly does not take away

1 from the other pieces, but it's a major point  
2 that I think needs to be looked at, thank you.

3 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 Is there anyone else that has not  
6 had a chance to speak who like would like to  
7 speak now?

8 (No response.)

9 Okay. I would like to take a  
10 five-minute recess. The court reporter will get  
11 her things together, and then we will come back  
12 and do a question-and-answer period.

13 MS. NEWENDYKE: May I make a quick comment  
14 if possible.

15 OFFICER BENSKO: You have to come up here  
16 and state your name again.

17 MS. NEWENDYKE: I am sorry. Hopefully this  
18 is not inappropriate.

19 OFFICER BENSKO: No.

20 MS. NEWENDYKE: Again, my name is Cindy  
21 Newendyke, C-i-n-d-y, N-e-w-e-n-d-y-k-e.

22 I would just like to take this

1 opportunity if we are going to take a  
2 five-minute break, several people here have  
3 expressed interest in PURE.

4                   Maybe many of you may not know about  
5 our organization. And I have got a sheet of  
6 paper, unfortunately, I don't know if we have  
7 enough business cards between the members who  
8 are here, but I would like to lay this piece of  
9 paper out on the table here, and as you take a  
10 break, if you would like more information from  
11 our organization or would like to be contacted  
12 to just put your name and phone number and email  
13 address, and we will be happy to have someone  
14 contact you.

15                   I implore all of you to stay  
16 involved. I am concerned that about the four  
17 months stay. I hope that is a good thing, but I  
18 have some concerns that that could be a tactic  
19 from ComEd to make us lose momentum, wear us all  
20 down.

21                   I have to say I am worn down, I work  
22 full time and have two children and attend a lot

1 of meetings now.

2 And I am concerned that that could  
3 be a tactic, so I beg and implore each and every  
4 one of you to stay informed and in tuned on this  
5 and to not let us lose momentum.

6 I think that with momentum and with  
7 us banding together, we have a strong force,  
8 thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.

11 (Whereupon, the above  
12 proceedings were continued  
13 to June 3, 2003, at  
14 7:00 p.m.)

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